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In re Application of: ACHIWA
Application No. 10/797,052
Filed: March 11, 2004
For: CONTROL METHOD FOR STORAGE
SYSTEM, STORAGE SYSTEM, AND
STORAGE DEVICE

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL
(ACCELERATED EXAMINATION)
UNDER M.P.E.P. §708.02 (VIII)

This is a response to the petition filed 13 April 2005 and supplemented by the further submission of 10 June 2005 under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02 (VIII): Accelerated Examination, to make the above-identified application special.

The Petition is **DISMISSED**.

M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section VIII which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

- (a) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in **37 CFR 1.17(h)**;
- (b) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status;
- (c) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. The pre-examination search must be directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested. A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement;
- (d) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and

(e) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

In those instances where the request for this special status does not meet all the prerequisites set forth above, **applicant will be notified and the defects in the request will be stated**. The application will remain in the status of a new application awaiting action in its regular turn. In those instances where a request is defective in one or more respects, applicant will be given one opportunity to perfect the request in a renewed petition to make special. If perfected, the request will then be granted. If not perfected in the first renewed petition, any additional renewed petitions to make special may or may not be considered at the discretion of the Technology Center (TC) Special Program Examiner.

The petition filed 13 April 2005 and supplemented on 10 June 2005 fails to adequately meet requirement (e) of the criteria set forth above. The discussion of the references does not point out with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111(b) and (c) how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

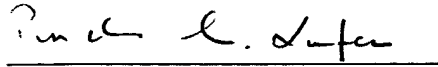
The petition identifies a feature of each independent claim (i.e., a first feature of independent claim 1, . . . , a fourth feature of independent claim 18). However, in identifying this feature, the discussion states that the references “fail to disclose or suggest [the identified feature] *in combination* with the other limitations recited in the claims” (emphasis added). It is also stated in the discussion of each reference that the reference “does not disclose or suggest” the identified feature for each independent claim “*in combination* with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims”. (emphasis added). In effect, the discussion states that the *entirety* of the four independent claims is not disclosed by the eight references purported to be most closely related. Such a statement is not a sufficient detailed description. Applicants may wish to consider deleting the portions of the discussion that indicate that the identified features *in combination* with the other limitations are not disclosed by the references. Also, it is suggested that if the identical statement is being made to distinguish each reference from the claims, as in the supplemental petition, then the statement should simply be made once in the petition. (E.g., “None of the references disclose”)

The discussion also states that, for seven of the eight references deemed most closely related, the reference fails to disclose “that a second storage device requests first information from a first storage device indicating that a replication of data written in the first storage area has not yet been transmitted to a second storage area when notice of failover is received from a second information processing device.” However, it is unclear what is intended by the discussion of this particular feature when this feature does not even appear in any of the independent claims. (All of the independent claims specify that the replication of data has not yet been transmitted to a second storage *device* rather than a second storage area. Claims 8, 15, and 18 refer to a “channel controller” rather than a “second storage device”. Claims 15 and 18 refer to “the other storage device” rather than “the first storage device”. Claim 18 contains additional inconsistencies.)

Petition to Make Special **DISMISSED**.

Petitioner is given one opportunity to perfect the petition. Any request for reconsideration must be filed within TWO MONTHS of the mail date of this decision.

Until the renewed petition is submitted, the application will be returned to the examiner's docket to await treatment on the merits in the normal order of examination.



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